



Memo

To: Park Board
From: Park and Recreation Staff
Date: November 8, 2013
Subject: Monthly Update

Following are department highlights for October and early November for your review.

1. Director's report from Ben Wagner:
 - a. *Hamilton Center* - Roof replacement has begun over the original Harry Weese Building. The contractor is working hard to meet the schedule of completion by December.
 - b. *Noblitt People Trail Re-route* - The final boardwalk treads were installed the week of November 4th and we expect it to be complete by the time of this meeting.
 - c. *Mill Race Park Amphitheater RFQ* - The Mill Race Amphitheater "Request for Qualifications" document has been sent out to a number of consultants who are members of the American Society of Theater Consultants. After receiving RFQs our committee will choose the short list to send out RFP's for redesign of the Amphitheater and Festival area.
 - d. *City Strategic Plan* - We will be preparing 2014 goals for our department in December. Some are directly aligned with the City plan and will be presented to the Mayor for inclusion in the updated City Strategic Plan.
 - e. *Logo* - At the Department Head meeting on 11/5 the Mayor presented a new logo for the City and Departments. She would like all Departments except Police, Fire and Utilities to move towards a unified logo.
2. Kathy McPeck reported the following for Recreation/Events and Administration:

Fun and Fit at Columbus Gymnastic Center:

 - a. Open gym attendance for October was:
 - Pre-school (including MOMS Club & MOPS program): 603
 - Family open gym sessions on Thursdays & Saturdays: 202
 - Ages 7-up: 88Open gym numbers are seeing the usual increase as the weather gets colder and folks return to indoor activities! The numbers for the Monday Open Gym for Ages 7 - up increased by over 200% from September!
 - b. A total of 98 children attended one of 4 "Flip & Dip" sessions over the 2-week Fall Break in Oct.
 - c. The Oct. 25th, Friday Family Open Gym had 20 children plus parents attend. Our next Friday Family Open Gym is set for Nov. 22nd from 6:30-8pm. Cost is \$3 per child and parent supervision/participation is required.
 - d. All birthday party times except one are rented for the month of November! We had several other calls for dates that were already booked. We scheduled 23 parties total! As of 11-5-13, only one party time remains open for the month of December!
 - e. Teens from the Boys & Girls' Club visited three times over the October Fall Break. A total of 30 teens participated. They also visited on Friday afternoon, November 1st.
 - f. Columbus Power Elite All-Stars Cheer Squad earned the Community Group Award - Youth Groups for their float in the Ethnic Expo Parade on Oct. 12th. Congratulations girls!
 - g. The Power Elite All Stars will begin their competition season on November 17th.

- h. The Gymnastics Center will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday, Nov. 28-Dec. 1.
- i. Our "Active Artists!" program resumed in October. Free crafts are offered once a month from Oct. - Dec. and Jan.-April. The October crafts and treats featured Halloween and in November we will feature Thanksgiving crafts and treats. Approximately 15 children participated in October. The crafts are offered on the first Thursday of the month during our Family Open Gym time from 12:30-1:30pm. Open gym cost is \$3 per child and the crafts are FREE!
- j. Fall Session 2 will end on November 9th. Winter Session 1 will begin the week of Nov. 11. As of 11-5-13 we have 101 children enrolled. Registrations will continue to be accepted through November 23rd.

Recreation - Events:

- a. Approximately 150 people attended the Kiwanis Duck Splash at Mill Race Park Round Lake on Oct. 12.
- b. We had over 150 children and adults attend the annual "Trick or Treat Tales" family event on Oct. 18 at Donner Center.
- c. We had 100 children ages 0-12 participate in the annual Costume Contest at Donner Center on Oct. 27. A big thank you to Mayor Brown for agreeing to be one of our judges this year! She came dressed as a City of Columbus firefighter!
- d. The Columbus Bluegrass Jamboree drew a great crowd of approx. 250-300 for the final concert of 2013 to Donner Center. The next show will be on Saturday, Jan. 18.
- e. The 16th annual "Holiday Creations Craft Show & Sale" was held on Saturday, Nov. 9th. All booth spaces were sold!!!
- f. The next "Community Cast-A-Ways" garage sale will be held on Saturday, Nov. 16th from 9:00am-1:00pm. All booth spaces have been sold for this sale too!!! It's a great place to pick up some great bargains!
- g. Another all-day scrapbooking event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 8:30am-4:30pm at Donner Center.
- h. The 16th annual "Mom & Me for Tea" will be held on Sunday, Dec. 8th at 1:00pm at Donner Center. The event is for mothers with daughters ages 3-8. The day will include tea, punch, sandwiches, sweets, crafts, games and surprises! The girls wear their holiday best for our fashion show! Cost is \$22 per mother/daughter pair. Registration deadline is Dec. 4 or until max enrollment has been met.
- i. The annual Santa's Workshop will be held on Friday, Dec. 13 from 6:30-8pm. The event will feature the Adzooks Puppets performing the show "Dennis the Elf Bakes a Gingerbread Cookie" at 6:30pm. After the show we'll have crafts, games, snack, prizes and surprises! Cost is \$1.00 per person and all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Programs:

- a. "Little Chefs - Ice Cream Parlor" class for ages 5-8 will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 13 from 4:30-5:45pm at Donner Center. Children will make their own "make & shake" and "kick the can" ice cream and then have some sundaes! Cost is \$14 per child.
- b. Another "Little Chefs" class - "Sweet Christmas Treats" will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 10 from 4:45-5:45pm at Donner Center. Cost is \$14 per child.
- c. The next adult basket weaving class will be held on Thursday, Nov. 14 at Donner Center. The class already has a full registration! A Christmas basket design will be featured.

Teens:

- a. The Teen Council members are planning their next 2 events. An ice skating party will be held on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 8:45-10:45pm at Hamilton Center Ice Arena. Cost will be \$3 per person. Council members are planning broomball and an ice cream bar featuring ice cream from Dag's!
- b. The December event will be a Christmas art type event - "Cookies & Canvas" on December 14. Details, including location are still being worked out by council members.

3. Mark Jones reported the following for the Sports and Athletic Facility Team:

Programs/Tournaments:

- a. Adult Kickball season ended.
- b. Adult Soccer ended.
- c. Adult Fall Volleyball tournament has started.
- d. Both the Concession Stands and Batting Cage are being winterized.
- e. Preventive maintenance/repairs will be made to all the Batting Cage machines this winter.
- f. Work is underway for the Fun Guide.
- g. They continue to finalize the 2014 tournament schedule.
- h. CSA Fall league ended.
- i. Columbus Express soccer season ended.
- j. BCSC (Boys/Girls) soccer season ended.
- k. Tournament:
 - o USFA (United States Fastpitch Assoc.) – 93 teams
- l. Prep work continues for the 2014 season.

Athletic Facilities:

- a. All facilities are being winterized for the year including BCSC outdoor sports facilities.
- b. Athletic Facilities Team is taking advantage of the nice weather to get Spring Prep work finished to get a good start to 2014.
- c. Projects:
 - Hamilton Center Restrooms are almost complete with only a few items left on the punch list.
 - Hamilton Center Roof is going strong and looking great. Hope to be finished early to mid-December.
 - Hamilton Center Fundraising Project is picking up steam and we are looking to begin work on a number of different items in the near future. Fundraising group has hired Construction Manager – Taylor Bros to help oversee projects. David Doup will be the CM.
 - Dick Wigh Soccer Complex Restroom project has started and is going well.
- d. IPLLA (Indiana Professional Lawn & Landscape Assoc.) – Travis Tindell, Steve Hyden and Curt Rutan will be attending “Athletic Field & Grounds Managers Workshops” on November 14 (Columbus, IN). Great opportunity to receive CCH’s and it’s in our own backyard.
- e. Indiana has formed a State Chapter under STMA (Sports Turf Managers Assoc.) and Columbus Parks & Recreation will be heavily involved.

Hamilton Center:

- a. October was a great month for Hamilton Center. We finished up our Fall 1 sessions, and began our Fall 2 sessions. It was a slow start but our classes are filling up.
- b. We held our very first *Skate and Scare* on the 26th. It was a great hit. The kids loved it and we will be doing it again next year!
- c. It’s amazing having the new bathrooms almost done. We are getting a lot of compliments on them and the rink in general. Everyone loves what we are doing with the facility. The roof project is continuing as planned with lots of banging, scraping and dust.
- d. We have started yoga classes at the rink and they are slowly growing as time progresses.
- e. Over fall break we held the Princess Tea Skating sessions. They were a huge hit, with a total of 16 girls participating. The girls had tea and cookies, made crowns and skated with Hamilton Center’s very own princesses.
- f. We held extra public sessions over fall break with a decent turn out.
- g. CYH season began this month and it is in full swing with scheduling games and practices.
- h. House league hockey also began this month with quite a few new sign-ups so far and registration continues.
- i. Broomball had a tournament on the 12th with 4 states competing. It was great fun! The Fall Broomball League is underway. They need extra ice time because they have added another team to their rosters along with an “Iron Man” game every week!

- j. LCSC traveled to regionals to compete this month and the girls did a great job! They also held two test sessions with approximately 56 participating.
4. Casey Ritz reported for Park Operations:
- a. The maintenance crew repaired the pond pumps at Mill Race and replaced the plaque at Donner Shelter that was taken earlier this year. They also helped with Touch a Truck, Ethnic Expo and a few other events. The crew has started placing the shelter at Oakbrook.
 - b. The vehicle maintenance crew has been keeping up with breakdowns along with our routine maintenance on the equipment. They also have been getting the equipment ready for winter and snow removal.
 - c. The cleaning crew has been painting restrooms and the surrounding fences. They have also been preparing for winter shut down of the restrooms. They have finished with the tournament schedule for the year and have started working on the winter list of projects.
 - d. The grounds crew has planted our fall trees. They are preparing the landscape beds for winter. They will start back soon on EAB evaluations for city properties. The crew has also been very busy blowing and mowing leaves.
 - e. The Donner crew has had another busy month with event set ups and tear downs. They have also been working on preparing for winter and cleaning away a lot of leaves.
 - f. The FFY crew has been working on their regular maintenance and cleaning program. They are also putting together a plan for our winter shut down.
 - g. The Commons staff replaced the soap dispensers in the restrooms. They also had 40 meeting in the conference rooms along with 12 rentals of the performance space. They have done some painting and extra cleaning of the outside of the building. They are glad to report that the shades in the Performance area are complete.
5. Aquatics Manager, Jim Lemke reported that he has been selected as the IPRA Southern District Chair Elect.
6. April Williams' report for Project, Resource Development follows on the next page:
- c: Mayor Kristen Brown
Councilman Dascal Bunch
Jeff Logston
Parks & Recreation FT Employees

Project/Resource Development Update November, 2013

Current projects:

Park & Park Facilities

- Continue working with the Hamilton Center Project Campaign Committee. 80% of the fundraising goal has been raised, to date. Grants written thus far include:
 - Heritage Fund: Grant approved for \$50,000.00
 - Reeves Foundation: Grant request of \$100,000.00
 - Visitors Center Tourism Enhancement Grant: Grant request at the “Guardian Giving level from \$15,000.00 - \$25,000.00
 - Scheduling personal visits to request additional contributions to the campaign.
- Attend regular meetings with Park staff to discuss priority Capital projects for Parks & Rec.
- Continue to attend the Arts District Coalition Team Meeting as a committee member of the Urban Infrastructure Team and the Program Planning Team.
- Attend 9th Street improvement team meetings.
- The Indiana Parks and Recreation Association workshop on October 22nd was a success. Guests from other Parks and Recreation Depts. around the state were in attendance. The workshop topic was *Creating Community Coalition to build a “Trail Network”*. Coordination of speakers included: Ben Wagner, April Williams, Lynn Lucas, Jeff Bergman, Dave Hayward, and Laura Garrett. An instructional tour of our People Trail Network was included. All speakers did an excellent job in demonstrating to other communities how beneficial a community coalition is to the success of creating the extensive network we offer our residents here in Columbus.
- Providing updates of the People Trail Project to investors.
- Meeting with Tipton Lakes Association Manager and residents to discuss future upgrades to Oakbrook and Harrison Ridge Park.
- New AmeriCorps member, Dick Boyce, has organized two volunteer efforts. He continues to make progress in creating an “Adopt a Trail” project to assist with volunteer coordination toward maintenance of our People Trails. Dick will also be coordinating a “Race2play Volunteer Program” that will offer annual neighborhood and park clean-ups.
- Attendance at the Cummins Community Involvement Fair (three host sites) was fruitful. We have already received contributions to the Park Foundation because of this effort to educate employees about Parks and Recreation’s offerings and ways they can help grow and maintain programs and park amenities through the Park Foundation.
- Planning Annual Campaign and Planning Meeting for the Park Foundation
- Planning, with our new Commons Manager, Shanda, a community event at the Commons to coincide with the Festival of Lights Parade. The event will be on December 7th and will be called Festival of Lights ~ Mayor’s Christmas Village. This is free to the community. We have partnered with several bakeries, musical performers, the kidscommons and more, to offer a festive Christmas celebration from 1-5 pm leading up to the Festival of Lights Parade. We have also partnered with QMIX to help promote the event. I met with Bill Helmbrecht to discuss the underwriting of décor for the event. The Clarence E. & Inez R. Custer Foundation Inc. has generously committed to \$2000 earmarked for the event.

Race2Play

- Continue to meet with invested parties interested in furthering Race2play.
- Chris Jensen from the Governor’s Bicentennial Project will be visiting the Parks Dept. this month to view the Race2play improvements to our parks.

Park Foundation

- The Park Foundation's October 30th meeting was postponed due to illnesses. We are determining a new date convenient for board members. The discussion will include long-term planning for the Foundation. Coordination of the Annual Newsletter as our "Annual Appeal" is in progress.
- Met with members of INDOT, County, and MPO to discuss re-allocating the funding to refurbish the Newbern bridge for the Haw Creek realignment project.
- ***GREAT NEWS!*** We have received confirmation of the Recreation Trails – DNR grant approval for the Clifty Creek People Trail expansion. This is a \$150,000.00 grant approval.

Thank you for your service!

April Williams